

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 482

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, EI

SUBJECT: EC SUMMIT MEETING: BRITISH RENEGOTIATION

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEPARATE BRIEFINGS ON EC SUMMIT
DISCUSSION OF BRITISH RENEGOTIATION FROM EAMONN GALLAGHER,
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
NOEL DORR, POLITICAL DIRECTOR. FOLLOWING REPORT REPRESENTS
SYNTHESIS OF INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE TWO:

2. OUR CONTACTS THINK THAT BRITISH RECEIVED WHAT THEY
EXPECTED TO GET AND EC PARTNERS GAVE WHAT THEY EXPECTED
TO HAVE TO GIVE. NEVERTHELESS, THERE WAS HARD BARGAINING
AND SOME FAIRLY TENSE MOMENTS, AND FOREIGN MINISTER FITZ-
GERALD WAS QUOTED AS SAYING BRITISH CAME CLOSE TO "PRESSING
THEIR LUCK." EC PARTNERS LOOKED UPON THE PROBLEM AS THAT OF
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GIVING WILSON A RESULT THAT HE COULD SELL THE CABINET AND

THE BRITISH ELECTORATE, WHILE NOT DAMAGING THE EC TREATIES. WILSON SAID IN SUMMIT MEETING THAT CABINET MUST DECIDE ON ACCEPTABILITY OF TERMS HE NEGOTIATED, BUT EC PARTNERS WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT WILSON WILL WORK FOR FAVORABLE (I.E., PRO-MARKET) VOTE IN BRITISH REFERENDUM.

3. ONLY TEXT OF SUMMIT AGREEMENT ON RENEGOTIATION TERMS IS THAT CONTAINED IN PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE'S REMARKS TO PRESS (SEE SEPTEL). IN EFFECT, HEADS OF GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED WITH A FEW MODIFICATIONS EC COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BRITISH RENEGOTIATION TERMS. CRITERIA CONCERNING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT AND TWO-THIRDS CEILING HAVE BEEN DROPPED. NEW AGREEMENT CALLS FOR CORRECTING MECHANISM TO BE LIMITED TO CEILING OF 250 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (UA) PROVIDING TOTAL COMMUNITY BUDGET DOES NOT EXCEED EIGHT BILLION UA, IN WHICH CASE CEILING WILL BE FIXED AT AMOUNT REPRESENTING 3 PERCENT OF TOTAL BUDGET EXPENDITURE. GALLAGHER SAID THAT MOST IMPORTANT CHANGE IN COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS WAS THAT OF CEILING. HE ADDED THAT NEXT STEP IS FOR COMMISSION TO PRODUCE REVISED RENEGOTIATION PROPOSALS ON BASIS OF AGREEMENT REACHED BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS IS MERELY A TECHNICALITY. THE DEAL HAS BEEN MADE.

4. GALLAGHER REPORTED THAT WILSON GOT NO SATISFACTION ON NEW ZEALAND CHEDDAR. ON BUTTER, NEW ZEALAND WILL CONTINUE TO ENJOY PART OF THE COMMUNITY MARKET UP TO 1980. STATEMENT ON NEW ZEALAND DAIRY PRODUCT IMPORTS WAS DRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY THAT WILSON CAN MAKE IT LOOK FAIRLY GOOD TO BRITISH ELECTORATE BUT, IN FACT, COMMUNITY IS COMMITTED TO NOTHING NEW. NEW ZEALAND DAIRY PRODUCT STATEMENT TRANSMITTED IN SEPTEL.
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